

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A therapeutic method for the treatment of spinal cord injury consisting of administering a subject in need thereof a therapeutic effective amount of at least one N-(2-aryl-propionyl)-sulfonamide of general formula (I):



(I)

in which:

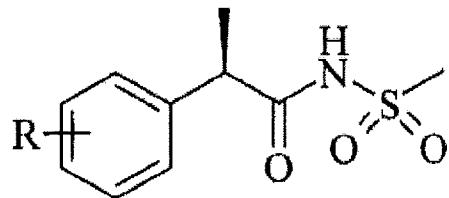
R<sub>2</sub> is an aryl group,

R is a straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, cyclohexyl, o-tolyl, 3-pyridyl, 2-pyridylethyl, p-cyano-phenylmethyl, p-aminophenylmethyl, 3-cyano-1-propyl,

4-aminobutyl group, an alkoxyethylene CH<sub>3</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n<sub>i</sub></sub>-(OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m<sub>i</sub></sub>- group in which n<sub>i</sub> is zero or 1 and m<sub>i</sub> is an integer of from 1 to 3, or a P<sub>1</sub>P<sub>2</sub>N-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- group in which P<sub>1</sub> and P<sub>2</sub> are independently H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>- alkyl, benzyloxy-carbonyl, α-, β- or α-pyridocarbonylα-, β- or γ-pyridocarbonyl, carboxycarbonyl or carbalkoxycarbonyl, or P<sub>1</sub> and P<sub>2</sub> when joined to the N atom which they are linked to, form a phthalimido, piperidino, morpholino residue; R' is H or straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl.

6. (Previously presented). The therapeutic method according to claim 5 wherein R' is hydrogen.

7. (Currently amended) The therapeutic method according to claim 5, comprising administering the compounds of wherein a compound of formula (I) is a compound of the formula (Ia):



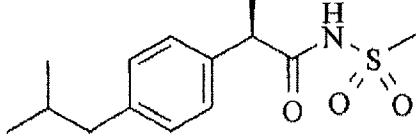
(Ia)

wherein R represents one to three substituents, which are the same or different, selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen atoms, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkoxy, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-acyloxy, cyano, nitro, amino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-acylamino, halo C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl, halo C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkoxy, benzoyl, 4-(2-methyl-propyl)-phenyl, 3-phenoxy-phenyl, 2-[4-(1-oxo-2-isoindolinyl)phenyl], 5-benzoyl-thien-2-yl, 4-thienoyl-phenyl, and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-halogenoalkylsulphonyloxy.

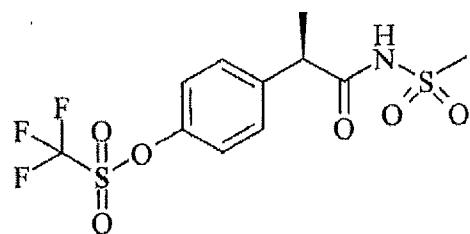
8. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 7 wherein R represents hydrogen, 4-isobutyl, 3-benzoyl or 4-trifluoromethanesulphonyloxy.

9. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 7 wherein R represents 4-isobutyl or 4-trifluoromethanesulphonyloxy.

10. (Currently amended) The therapeutic method according to claim 7 comprising administering wherein at least one of the compounds of formula (II) and (III)



(II)



(III)

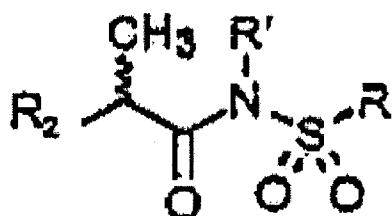
is administered.

11. (Previously presented) The therapeutic method according to claim 5, wherein the N-(2-aryl-propionyl)-sulfonamide is intravenously or intramuscularly administered.

12. **(Previously presented)** The therapeutic method according to claim 11 wherein the N-(2-aryl-propionyl)-sulfonamide is administered as a bolus.

13. **(Previously presented)** The therapeutic method according to claim 5, wherein the N-(2-aryl-propionyl)-sulfonamide is daily administered at least once in amounts ranging from 1 to 1500 mg.

14. **(Currently amended)** A therapeutic method for blocking oligodendrocyte apoptosis, reducing tissue damage and promoting functional recovery following spinal cord injury consisting of administering a subject in need thereof a therapeutic effective amount of at least one of at least one N-(2-aryl-propionyl)-sulfonamide of general formula (I):



(I)

in which:

R<sub>2</sub> is an aryl group,

R is a straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, trifluoromethyl, cyclohexyl, o-tolyl, 3-pyridyl, 2-pyridylethyl, p-cyano-phenylmethyl, p-aminophenylmethyl, 3-cyano-1-propyl or 4-aminobutyl group, an alkoxyethylene CH<sub>3</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n<sub>i</sub></sub>-(OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m<sub>i</sub></sub> group in which n<sub>i</sub> is zero or 1 and m<sub>i</sub> is an integer of from 1 to 3, or a P<sub>1</sub>P<sub>2</sub>N-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- group in which P<sub>1</sub> and P<sub>2</sub> are independently H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>- alkyl, benzyloxy-carbonyl,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  or  $\alpha$  pyridocarbonyl  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - or  $\gamma$ -pyridocarbonyl, carboxycarbonyl or carbalkoxycarbonyl, or P<sub>1</sub> and P<sub>2</sub> when joined to the N atom which they are linked to form a phthalimido, piperidino or morpholino residue; and R' is H or straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl.